

MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

NOVEMBER 6-12

VOL. 2, NUMBER 20

PHILADELPHIA: NOT ENOUGH HAVOC?

Did you ever have one of those days that something just didn't seem to click, no matter what you tried? Or no matter how your mother told you you'd love Brussels sprouts, it was a hopeless cause. I sense the same reflection concerning consensus reaction to HALLOWEEN HAVOC.

My own scientifically unsound telephone poll ---as of Friday---of 113 callers registered 53.5% negative, 39.5% positive and 7% so-so or average ratings on the show. A few have chastised me for my 18.0 rating on the MATWATCH 25 SCALE---which I will defend from a TV production standpoint, the cornerstone of what that scale evaluates. Likewise, my "Quality of Matches" rating was the lowest I've ever given an NWA supercard.

I think the few callers who voiced HAVOC as being the "worst pay-per-view show ever," have likely never seen or forgotten BUNKHOUSE STAMPEDE '88, STARRCADE '87, WRESTLEMANIA IV, SUPER CLASH III, or ROYAL RUMBLE '89---all of which, from this view, fall lower on the spectrum.

However, one cannot ignore this as the most significant outpouring of "thumbs down" on an NWA show ever from readers of this newsletter. Plain and simple, this is the show that should not have been---same as I feel ROYAL RUMBLE is for the WWF. There was simply not a compelling storyline on HAVOC which had built in enough intensity to make viewers emotionally glued. From here, Funk vs. Flair has dried at the well because of Terry's Mike Boyette-like record against Ric and no one expects him to win. Pillman vs. Luger was a quality match but Brian is not a big enough star yet for such a contest to carry the show. Joel Goodheart brought up an interesting point to me on the Road Warriors-Skyscrapers confrontation: "It should be the most intense feud of the year but it's a feud nobody can win (without damaging either team's invincibility). So why have it?" Perhaps the dangling finish can lead to some money battles but unless a gutsy booker takes control, we may be seeing a heavy round of DQ finishes.

My most astonishing reaction is to that incredible babyface reaction to the Freebirds, who could have simply shown up and drawn overwhelming cheers against the Dynamic Dudes. I'm told Philadelphia is mostly a "heel town" for the predominantly young adult male hardcore NWA fans, who simply didn't like the Dudes and don't like Jim Cornette associating with them. But the TBS/WCW people had to be chagrined over the heavy pro-Freebird reax, which had to damage the chances of the Dudes getting over against the Midnight Express.

I've told some callers Tommy Rich vs. the Cuban Assassin was the second worst match in pay-per-view history



(Jimmy Valiant vs. Wayne Bloom being the worst), not because the fans booed Tommy or didn't care about Dave Sierra. It simply had no business being scheduled on a pay show.

The Thunderdome gimmick, particularly the "electrified" part---which failed for a variety of reasons---came across as an oversold, overblown bag of hype that was hard to watch on TV and even harder to follow in the live arena.

Plainly, few people expected any titles to change and even fewer expected the NWA to have a dramatically different direction as a result of HAVOC. That, in itself, just didn't allow this show to measure up to past Turner/NWA pay-cable standards.

Some fans, admittedly, have been spoiled by the Flair-Steamboat series, as far as match quality. But that kind of series may not be duplicated for a decade, if ever. A few callers are criticizing the "Masters of the Ring" tourney format for STARRCADE as having no intensity. I differ.

Why? Particularly in the singles area, six weeks is not enough time to build public interest in a potential NWA world title change. But if one man can beat his other three competitors in the same night with no title on the line, he is in perfect position for an 11-week promotional campaign for the belt, to be climaxed on Feb. 25 at WRESTLE WAR '90. That man is Lex Luger, whom I openly now advocate as ready for that title and, along with Sting, is the

(Continued on Page Two)



**Steve
Beverly**

MATWATCH

Page 2

Vol. 2, No. 20 / Nov. 6-12

STEVE BEVERLY'S COLUMN (From P. 1)

foundation if this organization is to have any semblance of a new image for the early 1990s. Were I making the call, Luger would win the tourney at STARRCADE---with a screw-job on Sting to set him up as top challenger.

In January, Luger should lose a few matches around the circuit to several guys---Pillman, Sting, the Steiners (including the U.S. belt to Sting), to create a barrage of opponents for him as a potential world champion.

WCW has a myriad of problems to solve and making a new, younger champion is only one answer. But as we advocated three weeks ago, it's time to turn this group over to the youth. And let HALLOWEEN HAVOC and its expensive cage be chalked up---as Terry Funk described his match---as "an end to a means."

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

PRELIMINARY BUY-RATE ON HAVOC: PROFITABLE BUT NOT GREAT

ATLANTA --- Early reports from leading cable operators place the preliminary buy-rate for HALLOWEEN HAVOC, the Oct. 28 NWA pay-per-view special, at 1.75% but some managers believe the figure may drop as smaller systems report.

A 1.75% buy-in would total approximately 200,000 homes with an estimated gross of \$3.2 million, \$1.25 million of which would likely go to Turner Home Entertainment.

But one cable operator who asked not to be named told MATWATCH, "Some regions which tend to dip lower for the Turner shows have not reported and it would not be surprising to see the figure end at 1.2-1.3%."

WRESTLEMANIA TO TORONTO???

TITAN SHOULD SAY IN NOVEMBER

TORONTO --- Reliable sources have told MATWATCH the WWF's WRESTLEMANIA VI will originate from Toronto and an announcement is expected from Titan Sports within 30 days.

Titan sources are not telling the main event for the show and the report comes on the heels of a Canadian source telling MATWATCH Donald Trump had offered a \$4 million site fee to keep WRESTLEMANIA in Atlantic City for a third year.

The show will likely air on pay-for-view from Toronto's Skydome on April 1.

BRET HART INJURED; EXPECTED BACK THIS WEEKEND

TORONTO --- The WWF's Bret Hart is expected back in action this weekend after suffering an injury from an out-of-ring bump Oct. 30.

Hart reportedly incurred severely bruised ribs after crashing into a railing during his match with Dino Bravo.

Hart was taken to Toronto General Hospital by ambulance and later flown home to Calgary for further examination.

Early reports of broken ribs proved false and doctors are expected to okay Hart's return after a 10-day recuperation.

COULTER OUT IN FLORIDA? FCW WON'T CONFIRM

TAMPA --- Professional Wrestling of Florida managing general partner Wayne Coulter is said to be on his way out of the promotion, according to informed sources.

Calls to the PWF office, also known as Florida Championship Wrestling, were not returned Thursday or Friday. But insiders say Coulter, who had just offered a \$2 million public stock prospectus for the promotion, is either resigning or being forced out of the group.

Indications are that Mike Graham and Steve Keirn, who revived the promotion in the spring of 1988 with Gordon Solie, are back in managerial control.

PINFALL PROFILE

	NWA MAIN	PRIME TIME	ALL-AM	WORLD CHAMP.
Oct. '89	2.6 5.0	2.6 3.7	2.4 6.4	2.4 5.2
Oct. '88	2.3 4.3	2.6 3.9	2.2 5.9	2.3 4.8

While September brought cable wrestling ratings crashing to a collective low yet unseen since national promotions revived in 1984, audience levels increased on a year-to-year basis in October on almost every key NWA and WWF show.

NWA MAIN EVENT, which was mired in a sea of reruns of Kevin Sullivan-Big Bear Collie matches last fall, saw its ratings jump 13% over October 1988, headed by a 3.4 (see RATINGS RAP) for last Sunday's show, the second highest rating in the history of the series.

PRIME TIME WRESTLING stayed virtually flat---with a slight decrease in share---from last year. Many analysts chalk up PTW's decline to competition from NFL Monday Night Football. But the Halloween special perked up to a 2.8, up from several weeks of 2.4 levels.

WWF ALL-AMERICAN and NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP both posted slight increases with ALL-AM up 9% from last year and WCW posting a 4% gain. TBS' Jeff Carr says the SuperStation is pleased with the 5-plus share WCW has averaged but says the increase has to be taken in a guarded stance. "Last October was when we were having all of those bad shows at the end of the Dusty Rhodes era," says Carr, pointing to ratings which dipped as low as a 2.0 in what normally was a period when audiences on WTBS would increase.

Current total homes can be figured by multiplying the ratings (upper numbers) by 507,000 homes for WTBS and 485,000 homes for USA Cable.

Comparing increases from September of this year to October, MAIN EVENT posted the biggest jump, from a 2.1 to a 2.6. WCW gained from 2.1 to 2.4. The new NWA POWER HOUR posted its first two monthly averages over a 2 with a 2.0 (Sept.) and 2.1 last month. Both WWF shows stayed the same.

MATWATCH

Page 3

Vol. 2, No. 20/Nov. 6-12

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POW-ERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor.

(CWA) - Dutch Mantel d. Kevin Dillinger; Tony Anthony d. Kelvin Austin; REPLAY: Rock & Roll Express vs. Blackbirds (arena); Chris Champion d. Freezer Thompson; Blackbirds d. Enforcers. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWF) - 6-MAN: Jimmy Golden/Brian Lee/Cactus Jack Manson d. Daryl Hall (John Oates could not appear)/The Panther/Chief Little Lyn; Jerry Stubbs d. Lou Fabiano; Dennis Condrey d. Johnny Gilbert; 6-MAN: Southern Boys/Dixie Dyn-O-Mite d. Eliminators/Mercenary; Adrian Street d. The Beast, though both were counted out. BOMB-PLUS.

(USWA) - J.J. Funk d. Sheik Braddock; REPLAY: Gary Young/Billy Travis attack Eric Embry w. steel chain & "blind" him as Skandor Akbar, Percy Pringle brawl outside. Eric later returns & cleans house on Devastation w. 2x4 with late help from Jeff Jarrett; LUMBERJACK MATCH: P.Y. Chu'i d. Chris Adams when Travis nails Chris w. kendo stick; From MEMPHIS: Dustin Rhodes/Bill Dundee d. Rough & Ready; Jarrett/Terry Gordy draw vs. Ron Starr/Taurus Bulba. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: ANGLE: For Halloween, Boobsie dresses up as The Genius and Roddy Piper dresses as Boobsie w. Phyllis Diller hair; Tito Santana d. Bob Emery; Andre the Giant/Haku d. Mike Williams/Chuck Casey; Dusty Rhodes d. Joe Cruz; Rick Martel d. Breakdance Young; BRO. LUV: Roddy's Rowdies; Bolsheviks d. Trent Knight/Reno Riggins; Jake Roberts d. Tony Burton; Dino Bravo d. Hercules w. hands on top rope. ANGLE II: Bro. Luv dashes into Studio B, raging about being called BROTHER HATE when Piper shows up to put him to sleep. DRAW-PLUS...great comedy.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Piper d. Bruiser Brown; Roberts d. Burton; Bad News Brown d. Williams; Ted DiBiase d. Dusty Woods; Bravo d. Dale Wolfe; WWF TAG TITLE: Demolition d. Tully & Arn to regain belts. DRAW.

[SUPERSTARS]: WWF TAG TITLE, Demolition gets it back; Rhodes d. George South; Powers of Pain d. Horner/Powell; Martel d. Riggins; UPDATE: Curt Hennig, the swimmer; Jim Duggan d. Barry Horowitz; BRO. LUV w. King's Court until 4x4s run them out w. 2x4s. DRAW.

(GA. ALL-STAR) - Jimmy Powell d. Dino Minelli by DQ when Samuel Kent runs in; Billy Starr d. John Powers; Randy Rose d. Nighthawk (Joey Maggs); Chic Donovan vs. Nightmare Ted Allen becomes tag when Starr & Powell run in. Match ends in brawl. BOMB-PLUS.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Road Warriors d. The Cajun/The Blazer; Steve Williams d. Chuck Miller; Steiner Bros. d. Ron Shepherd/Chris Allen; Sting d. Alex Porteau; NWA WORLD TAG TITLE: Freebirds d. Tommy Rich/Ranger Ross. PEDICINO'S NOSE (both shows): Preview of CLASH IX. RESTHOLD.

[WORLD WIDE]: DOOM d. Shepherd/Blazer; Lex Luger d. King Cobra; Great Muta d. Cajun; 4-CORNER, \$5,000 ELIMINATION MATCH: Brian Pillman d. Eddie Gilbert in final after Cuban Assassin, Bill Irwin eliminated; Ric Flair d. The Raider. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Williams d. The Rude Dog; From NWA PRO: Freebirds d. Ross/Rich; 6-MAN: Samoan 3 d. Gilbert/Scott Hall/Dick Murdoch; WNN: Gordon recaps HAVOC results. FUNK'S

TV TEMPO

Week of Oct. 30-Nov. 5

GRILL: Terry & Flair (via satellite from Charlotte) square off over "I QUIT" match. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[WCW]: Sting d. Gene Ligon; Road Warriors d. Ric Conners/Jake Steel; Norman d. Rusty Riddle; FLAG MATCH: Ranger Ross vs. Cuban Assassin no contest when Marc Laurinidas attacks both Ross & Sierra; Pillman d. Richard Sartain; Steiners d. Agent Steel/Bill Ford; Tom Zenk d. Pat Rose; Williams d. Mark Kyle; DOOM d. George South/Johnny Kennedy; ANGLE: Jim Cornette says he'll be in no one's corner of Midnights-Dudes match at CLASH IX but Stan Lane tells Corny his contract says Jim must appear; Rich d. Lee Scott; M Ex d. Tommy Angel/Trent Knight; Great Muta d. Cruz; Samoan Swat Team d. Stallion/Chris Powers. RESTHOLD.

(PWF) - RECAP SHOW: FLA. TAG TITLE: Dennis Knight/Jumbo Baretta d. Nasty Boys; Tyree Pride d. Mike McClaskey; Steve Keirn d. Knight; Ron Slinker d. Mike Awesome; Kendall Windham d. Robbie Roberts. NO RATING OFFERED.

(PORTLAND) - Jonathan Boyd d. Carl Stiles by countout when Boyd chases Carl w. snake; Steve Doll d. Brian Adams by DQ then Adams hits ref Sandy Barr & works over Doll before Rex King saves but Adams decks him, too before S. Rockers save; Rex King d. Jonathan Holliday on reverse decision; Bill Francis (with one hand tied behind him) vs. Scotty the Body no contest. Boyd runs in & wraps snake around Francis before BJ saves; Rip Oliver double countout vs. Grappler; Beetlejuice vs. Al Madril in progress as show ends. ANGLES: 1) Veronica Lane introed as Scotty's new valet but Scotty won't let her come to ring because he's "in love with another woman." 2) Scotty brings Ginger box of candy and flowers during other matches; 3) Grappler offers Jeff Warner \$500 to join Brian Adams as partner in Pacific NW tag title match vs. Rockers. NO TV THIS WEEK. DRAW.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jim Cornette, PH, on Samoans/Oliver Humperdink: "They evidently don't look like John, Paul, George & Ringo." 2. Cornette, PH, on Hump: "He's like a model house. The lights are on but nobody's home." 3. Vince McMahon & Jesse Ventura, WWF, on Dusty: (VMc) "285 pounds with the elbow." (JV) "You said 289 earlier." (VMc) "He lost 4 pounds." 4. Terry Funk, NWA: "Ric Flair & I share only one thing in common. It's not looks. I'm better looking than that banana-nose pervert." 5. Samuel F. Kent, GAS: "Why go out and spend your hard-earned money on a mask when you're already ugly." 6. Charlie Platt, CWF, on Downtown Bruno's haircut: "You must have tried to change your blade on the lawn mower and left it running." 7. Downtown Bruno, CWF: "A guy told me he couldn't live with his father. He beat him all the time. So, he went to live with the Southern Boys 'cause they don't beat anybody." 8. Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: "You know the 2 famous words of BROTHER HATE? Gim-me." 9. Hawk, NWA: "You think the San Francisco earthquake tumbled buildings? Wait'll you see us again." 10. Cornette, PH, on Dr. Death: "He's

MATWATCH

Page 4

Vol. 2, No. 20/Nov. 6-12

won more matches in Little Rock than Carter has little liver pills."

11. Tojo Yamamoto, USWA: "Eric Embry have own seeing eye dog: Percy Pringle." 12. Funk, PH, to Flair: "I want to see you running from this ol' dog with all those rabbit pellets falling all over the ring." 13. Kent, GAS: "I made my fortune selling Cheerios to you idiots as doughnut seeds." 14. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Roddy Piper: "He looks like a rough, tough Phyllis Diller." 15. Ventura, WWF, on Dusty: "I wonder where you get polkadot elbow pads." 16. Cornette, PH: "The state bird (of Arkansas) is Foghorn Leghorn. That's EGG-citing." 17. Cornette & Jim Ross, PH: (JR) "More poultry is raised here than anywhere in the nation." (JC) "Does that mean Arkansas is the FOWL-est state in the Union?" 18. Ventura, WWF, on Rick Martel: "Look at him: nice-looking guy, full head of hair, unlike that toupee you wear, McMahon." 19. Scotty the Body, KGW Radio, on Al Madril: "He hates kids so bad he has his razor blades ready to go into the candy on Halloween night." 20. Ronald P. Gossett IV, CWA: "Food stamp recipients. That's exactly who the Rock & Roll Express relate to."

21. Iceman Parsons, CWA: "If you don't want to be part of the cake, you have no business getting in the mix." 22. Cornette & Ross, WCW: (JC) "Where does Teddy Long get those clothes?" (JR) "They're Arsenio Hall rejects." 23. Cornette, WCW: "They're beating up on Ricky Nelson: Ozzie & Harriet's favorite son." 24. Cornette, on DOOM & WOMAN: "They're a means to her ends." 25. Ross & Cornette, WCW, on Marc Laurinidas: (JR) "I still don't know who that is. We're standing out here like idiots." (JC) "Makes us look bad, too."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Flair, PH: "I'm criticized today. Some people say maybe Ric Flair has outlived this sport." 2. Gossett, CWF, to Dave Brown: "This TV station must have compassion to keep you on. As a commentator, you are lousy. You can't even tell the weather."

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - THE ROOSTER (Cornette on Humberdink).

BEST PICTURES - 1. USA, Piper's Rip Taylor wig. 2. USA, BRO. LUV asleep. 3. WWF, Precision 4x4 drill by Duggan SURVIVORS team. 4. TBS, Scott Hall dropped on rail by Samoans on POWER HOUR. 5. WWF, Tully Blanchard's over-the-top bump.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - Platt, CWF, to Bruno: "Did you go into the drawf-tossing business and get too close to a door?"

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD - Piper, PTW, for excellent safety tips for youngsters on Halloween night.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Bob Caudle, NWA, for calling Jimmy Garvin RONNIE Garvin. 2. Cornette, WCW, for calling DOOM's opponents Ricky Nelson & Thad Clark, instead of South & Kennedy.

ENGLISH LESSON - Caudle, NWA: "When he's in that headlock, he DON'T think about quickness."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Lex Luger, WCW: "...bitter pill to swallow."

BOO AWARD - ESPN, even if you are not a fan of the AWA, the least people are entitled to is an alternate hour for the show if Saturday at midnight is pre-empted.

TUBE TALK

AWA has only one ESPN airing during November, on the 18th in its usual Saturday midnight slot. Golf and basketball pre-empt the rest of the month....The saving grace of CWF has been some of the byplay between Charlie Platt and an erstwhile abrasive Downtown Bruno. Charlie is getting in some of his best singers yet on Bruno..... This Saturday on TBS: a Great Muta-Tommy Rich TV title match and Dr. Death vs. Sid Vicious, both on WCW....The outlaw ANP group up in Chattanooga was pre-empted two weeks ago and may have retreated from TV again....AWA is plugging FALL BRAWL '89 Nov. 18 in Rochester MN. Nikita Koloff will meet Larry Z for the AWA belt. Destruction Crew puts up the tag title against The New Fantastics and plugged is Paul Diamond vs. Pat Tanaka.

Next week, our WORST OF... ballot for the MATWATCH TV AWARDS. Feel free to send the two in together....Maybe it's because I knew the outcome but the Tully & Arn vs. Demolition title change, while better than most in the WWF, didn't show either team up to their best. I'm still surprised Tully did the job. That was Arn's designated role in the NWA....Tully will put over Ultimate Warrior on the WWF/USA COUNTDOWN TO CLASH special....PWF featured interview with Mark Starr (of Wildside) which hinted he may enter Florida permanently.

I am now told tickets for STARRCADE will not go on sale until Nov. 27, the Monday after the Omni's Thanksgiving show. Either call the Omni box office or any Atlanta SEATS locations....STARRCADE's title is now changed to FUTURE SHOCK from the original LORDS OF THE '90s....WWF TV this weekend will feature a strongman competition between Dino Bravo and Ultimate Warrior. If it's as exciting as that Bravo weightlifting bit on the first ROYAL RUMBLE, add it to the WORST ANGLE nominees.

An increasing number of people will be looking for CWF and Ga. ALL-STAR tapes since CWF is out of Tennessee and SCW has changed to the Ga. format....Also, Ron West's North American group still has not aired but a live show is being plugged for Birmingham. Terrence Garvin (Beauty) is the latest CWF guy to jump to West.

Finally, 2 items: 1) Our 1989 annual will be \$10 for U.S. and Canada and \$18 overseas. An order form will appear next week. 2) Remember our new MATWATCH HOTLINE number: (205) 826-RING (7464). We added this line to keep our regular line free for family and local personal calls, so please call us at 826-RING.

ONE YEAR AGO IN MATWATCH...

---Jerry Jarrett buys majority interest in WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING.

---Titan Sports' Donny Lalonde-Sugar Ray Leonard payable title fight airs with less than financial success.

---FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING begins showing FLORIDA FLASHBACK matches, heavily coated with old Dusty Rhodes matches.

---Ric Flair walks out of a TBS meeting in protest over Dusty Rhodes' plans for STARRCADE '88 but stays with the NWA after a meeting with TBS' Jack Petrik. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING ratings drop to 2.0.

BEST TV ANGLE OF THE YEAR

Continental Cat Funeral, CWF
 Funk attacks Flair, WW'89
 Piper turns Art Barr into Beetlejuice, PORTLAND
 Hogan/Savage split, MAIN EVENT, NBC
 Flair-Steamboat brawl, CLASH V
 Piper-Nord-Grappler brawl, PORTLAND
 Brooklyn Brawler attacks Terry Taylor, PRIME TIME, WWF
 REVERSE CAMERA ANGLE: Flair's leg on ropes in final fall at CLASH VI, TBS
 Bobby Heenan walks out on WRESTLING CHALLENGE, WWF
 British Bulldogs breakup, STAMPEDE
 Missy Hyatt slaps Kevin Sullivan, WCW
 Funk-Sting brawl, NWA PRO (June)
 Luger turns on Steamboat, CLASH VII
 Teddy Long fast-counts Road Warriors out of NWA tag title, CLASH VI
 Hogan/Brutus cut Bro. Love's hair, WWF
 Rude attacks Piper after Piper stuffs dental floss down Bro. Love, WWF
 Destruction Crew attacks Brad Rheingans/Ken Patera at carlift contest, AWA
 Piper moons Rude at SUMMER SLAM, WWF
 "The Rod Awakening," WWF
 Post-match Flair/Sting vs. Funk/Muta brawl, NWA BASH
 Handcuffing of Animal at MARIETTA MASSACRE, POWER HOUR, TBS

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TV BRAWL OF THE YEAR

Flair/Sting vs. Funk/Muta, BASH
 Rockers vs. Brainbusters, WWF
 Von Erich/Morton/Cooley vs. Japanese Connection/Alan Martin, CWF
 Japanese Connection vs. Bill Dundee/Adrian Street, CWF
 Flair vs. Steamboat, CLASH V
 3-WAY BRAWL: Road Warriors/Varsity Club/Sting-Hayes-JYD, CLASH V
 Warriors vs. Freebirds, WCW, Apr. 29
 Michael Hayes vs. Lex Luger, WCW, Apr.
 Piper-Nord-Grappler, PORTLAND
 Brad Armstrong vs. Tommy Rich, SCW
 Dusty Rhodes vs. Funk, PWF, Apr.
 Chris Adams vs. P.Y. Chu'i, USWA
 Dennis Condrey vs. Cooley, CWF
 Rock & Roll Express vs. Wildside, CWA

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MEMORABLE TV MOMENT OF THE YEAR

HOGAN blowing cue at MAIN EVENT in first aid room with LIZ, NBC
 PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY in BVDs, BASH
 LIZ POPPO smacking SHERRI, SS'89
 FUNK turning on FLAIR, WW'89
 FLAIR stripped to shorts in STEAMBOAT brawl, CLASH V
 FLAIR kissed by wife before 1st STEAMBOAT match, CHI-TOWN RUMBLE
 PUNK's "Ric Flair as Barbara Bush in drag interview, NWA (after WW'89)
 DUSTY RHODES/ANIMAL "Spike in the Eye," WCW (Dec. 1988)
 JERRY LAWLER blasting VERNE GAGNE for stripping of AWA belt, CWA
 Babyface cheer for FREEBIRDS at HALLOWEEN HAVOC, NWA
 TEDDY LONG fastcounts ROAD WARRIORS, CLASH VI
 HOGAN kicking out of SAVAGE elbow crash on 1, WM5
 HOGAN small package to beat DIBIASE, SNME (Oct.)
 Heel attack on DON COSS, PORTLAND
 TOMMY YOUNG joining LONG in raising STEAMBOAT's hand, CHI-TOWN RUMBLE
 ROBIN SMITH butchering AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL, WM5
 ERIC EMBRY/PERCY PRINGLE ripping down WORLD CLASS banner, WCCW

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BEST SINGLE PERFORMANCE (OR SERIES OF SINGLE PERFORMANCES) [New Category]

JIM ROSS, Play-by-play of FLAIR-STEAMBOAT I, CHI-TOWN RUMBLE
 TERRY PUNK, "The Turn of Ric Flair," WRESTLE WAR '89
 RANDY SAVAGE, series of pre-WRESTLEMANIA interviews, WWF
 RODDY PIPER, "School Bus Monologue," PRIME TIME (Oct. 16), WWF
 PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY, final DANGER ZONE, WCW (Sept. 16), NWA
 RICK STEINER & JIM ROSS, "The Transformation of Robin Green," WCW
 BOBBY HEENAN, "Walkout on WRESTLING CHALLENGE," WWF

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Send ballots to: MATWATCH TV
 AWARDS, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL
 36830.

BEST TV TURN OF THE YEAR

Randy Savage, WWF
 Michael Hayes, NWA
 Scott Peterson, PORTLAND
 Lex Luger, NWA
 Ric Flair, NWA
 Midnight Express, NWA (by Dec. 1)
 Terry Taylor, WWF
 Dennis Condrey, CWF
 Diamond Dallas Page, PWF

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RIISING STAR OF THE YEAR

Scott Steiner, NWA
 Tony Schiavone, WWF
 Brian Lee, CWA/USWA/CWF
 Cactus Jack Manson, CWA/USWA/CWF
 Keiiji Muto (Great Muta), NWA
 Brian Pillman, NWA
 Scotty the Body, PORTLAND
 Master of Pain, CWA
 Destruction Crew, AWA
 Larry Cameron, STAMPEDE
 Zeus, WWF

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OUTSTANDING TV PERSONALITY OF 1989

Jim Cornette, NWA
 Roddy Piper, PORTLAND/WWF
 Jim Ross, NWA
 Tom Prichard, CWF
 Diamond Dallas Page, PWF
 Terry Funk, NWA
 Bobby Heenan, WWF
 Randy Savage, WWF
 Ric Flair, NWA
 Hulk Hogan, WWF
 Brother Love, WWF
 Scotty the Body, PORTLAND
 Jerry Lawler, CWA/USWA
 Percy Pringle, USWA
 Paul E. Dangerously, NWA
 Rick Steiner, NWA

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NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____

MATWATCH TV AWARDS

RULES: Vote for your top three choices in each category in rank order. Points will be awarded on a 5-3-1 basis for your choices. A list of nominees is included in each category but you are free to write in any alternate choices. Balloting for WORST OF...categories will be issued next week. All categories will include events or personalities involved in the year Dec. 1, 1988-Nov. 30, 1989. Your ballot must be in by Dec. 15 to be included in the awards, results to be published in the 1989 MATWATCH ANNUAL. A drawing will be held from all entrants with the first winner to receive a free 7-issue set of MATWATCH, the second winner to get 5 free issues and the third winner to receive 3 free issues. (NOTE: Balloting strictly covers the U.S. and Canada.)

BROADCAST/BASIC CABLE MATCH OF THE YEAR

Flair/Windham vs. Gilbert/Steamboat, WCW, Jan. 21
 Flair vs. Steamboat, CLASH VI
 Rockers vs. Tully & Arn, SNME (Feb.)
 Sting vs. Rotunda, WCW, April 1
 Owen Hart vs. Ted DiBiase, SNME, (Feb.)
 Flair/Windham vs. Midnight Express, CLASH IV (Dec. 1988)
 Savage vs. Beefcake, SNME (July)
 Gilbert vs. Windham, WCW (Jan. 14)
 Terry Funk vs. Dustin Rhodes, PWF ("The Homecoming," Feb.)
 Hulk Hogan vs. Big Bossman (Cage), SNME (May)
 Brad Armstrong vs. Tom Prichard, CWF (Jan.)
 Midnights vs. Freebirds, WCW (May)
 Funk vs. Steamboat, CLASH VII (June)
 MASSACRE IN MARIETTA (Road Warriors-SST-Freebirds), POWER HOUR

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PPV MATCH OF THE YEAR

Flair vs. Steamboat I, CHI-TOWN RUMBLE
 Flair vs. Steamboat III, WW'89
 Luger vs. Windham, CHI-TOWN
 Warrior vs. Rude, SUMMER SLAM
 Luger vs. Hayes, WW'89
 Rockers vs. Twin Towers, WM5
 Hogan vs. Savage, WM5
 Flair vs. Funk, BASH/Glory Days
 Luger vs. Steamboat, BASH
 Sting vs. Muta, BASH
 Steiner vs. Rotunda, STARRCADE '88
 Flair vs. Luger, STARRCADE '88
 Bigelow vs. Windham, STARRCADE '88
 Luger vs. Pillman, HALLOWEEN HAVOC
 Von Erich vs. Lawler, SUPER CLASH III

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST NEW CHARACTERS

Cactus Jack Manson, USWA/CWF/CWA
 Beetlejuice, PORTLAND
 Norman, NWA
 Theodore R. Long, NWA
 Wildside, CWA
 Robin Green/WOMAN, NWA
 Zeus, WWF
 Widowmaker, WWF
 Skyscrapers, NWA
 Black Harts, STAMPEDE
 Ronald Gossett IV, CWA
 Steelman, PWF (Florida)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST COMEDIAN

Rick Steiner, NWA
 Terry Funk, NWA/PWF
 Roddy Piper, PORTLAND/WWF
 Bobby Heenan, WWF
 Scotty the Body, PORTLAND
 Larry Cameron, STAMPEDE
 Sir Samuel P. Kent, GA. ALL-STAR
 Jesse Ventura, WWF
 Jim Cornette, NWA
 Paul E. Dangerously, NWA
 Michael Hayes, NWA
 Brother Love, WWF
 Diamond Dallas Page, PWF
 Johnny Valiant, AWA
 Freddie Blassie, WWF
 Ronald Gossett IV, CWA

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST LIVE TV SUPERCARD

CLASH VI (New Orleans), TBS
 THE MAIN EVENT, NBC (Feb.)
 WRESTLE WAR '89, PPV (NWA)
 SUMMER SLAM '89, PPV (WWF)
 BASH/GLORY DAYS, PPV (NWA)
 CHI-TOWN RUMBLE, PPV (NWA)
 STARRCADE '88, PPV (NWA)
 SURVIVOR SERIES '89, PPV (WWF)
 WRESTLEMANIA V, PPV (WWF)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER

Don Coss, PORTLAND
 Jim Ross, NWA
 Lance Russell, CWA/NWA
 Tony Schiavone, NWA/WWF
 Vince McMahon Jr., WWF
 Joe Pedicino, ACW/SCW
 Gordon Solie, PWF
 Charlie Platt, CWF
 Jim Davies, STAMPEDE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST COLOR COMMENTATOR

Jesse Ventura, WWF
 Bob Caudle, NWA
 Jim Cornette, NWA
 Roddy Piper, PORTLAND
 Scotty the Body, PORTLAND
 Tom Prichard, CWF
 Michael Hayes, NWA
 Diamond Dallas Page, PWF
 Bobby Heenan, WWF
 Bulldog Bob Brown, STAMPEDE
 Terry Funk, NWA (Clash VI/NWA PRO)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BEST WEEKLY TV WRESTLING SERIES (All Programs Eligible but CLASH & SNME)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BALLOTING CONTINUES ON
 NEXT PAGE

MATWATCH

Page 7

Vol. 2, No. 20 / Nov. 6-12

THE HUMILIATION: Because the outcome has news value of a business sense more than a fan sense, on the Nov. 25 SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT, we'll go so far as to tell you Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson are humiliated on their final WWF TV appearance and it will accomplish Vince McMahon's desire to deteriorate them before their NWA return. They take on The Rockers in a 2-of-3 fall match and you'll see the rest.

ALSO ON SNME: In addition, on that SNME card from Topeka, Kansas, Curt Hennig faces Terry Taylor in a rematch of the SUMMER SLAM event abruptly shortened when Taylor blew out his knee. Plus, Hulk Hogan defends the WWF belt vs. Lanny Poffo. Should be a thriller.

BUZZWORD: Buzz Sawyer is the replacement for Terry Funk in the NWA heel ranks after CLASH IX. Sawyer appears on the Nov. 18 WCW vs. Trent Knight on TBS. I'm told for a guy who's been out of the mainstream U.S. ranks for nearly three years, he's in good shape and drew good heat.

MORE BUZZ: I'll withhold comment until I actually see Sawyer but---even though he's only around 30---this move reminds me of trying to recycle the early 1980s on TBS instead of grooming new talent. Let's just hope we don't see an eventual revival of Tommy Rich vs. Buzz, a la 1983.

LUGER LUNCH: Lex Luger drew 113 for Joel Goodheart's SQUARED CIRCLE luncheon on the day of HAVOC in Philadelphia. It was the biggest Goodheart lunch ever.

HAVOC WITH HAVOC: I don't know if the reported \$60,000 cost of the Thunderdome cage is accurate but TBS ran into problems with both electricians and the Philadelphia fire marshals because of the potential hazards. Even stranger was seeing Tommy Young have to put out a pre-match fire.

IT AIN'T TYREE: Kendall Windham beat Ron Slinker in Orlando Oct. 29 for the PWF Caribbean title. On the same show, Jumbo Baretta and Iceman Parsons both no-showed for their Fla. tag title match with partners Dennis Knight and Brickhouse Brown.

OLYMPIC TO REOPEN: Lots of rumors that the old Olympic Auditorium is going to be refurbished and reopened---but it's not for the NWA. It would be to house the Lucha Libre shows.

ON TO STAMPEDE: One of the young Lucha stars, Konan, is on his way to Calgary in late November for a slot against Owen Hart. I'm told this guy is a real comer whose goal is to get to the NWA. He has a finisher called the Ziplock, a standing figure-4, in which the arms are also locked. Nov. 10, Konan goes to Tijuana against Dos Caras for the Mexican version of the "world" heavyweight title.

MANDO, MANDO: Mando Guerrero headed for Stampede, reportedly for a series vs. Dynamite Kid. Mando met Konan, who played a Brody-type heel, at the recent Lucha Libre tapings.

IT WON'T BE PHILLY: The Freebirds put up the NWA world tag belts against the Steiners Nov. 18 on WCW. I'm also told

COMINGS & GOINGS

the Steve Williams-Sid Vicious match upcoming this weekend is a hot one.

LUCHA ON GALAVISION: In response to questions from dish owners and people who receive Galavision on cable, Lucha Libre is carried from 3-5 p.m. Pacific time on Galaxy 1, Transponder 20.

NO MORE DUSTY, I MEAN ERIC: Eric Embry is out as USWA booker and I'm told it was a mutual decision between him and Jerry Jarrett. The creative chores are now being taken over by the trio of Jarrett, Skandor Akbar and Gary Young. Wonder how long Eric will hang around now.

KILLER'S CORPS: Speaking of Dallas, Killer Tim Brooks' TV is off to a good start in its first three weeks on TV39 in the Metroplex. Brooks and John Tatum are the top heels and reportedly drew 1,300 for a recent taping. Brian Adias, Scott Casey, Steve Casey and Steve Cox are also among the Killer's corral.

BOBBY'S BACK: Bobby Jagers, conspicuous by his absence of recent months, turned up at the WWF Topeka show as a jobber. No one knows if that's a permanent situation.

HALLOWEEN IN ATLANTA: Boni Blackstone's Halloween SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING had a real party atmosphere with all of the GA. ALL-STAR guys who dropped by in some kind of festive garb. Boni donned a bald wig before the show ended. She now wants to be known as Telly Blackstone.

SURVIVOR \$\$\$\$: SURVIVOR SERIES will not come cheap to dish owners. PRIME TIME 24, the distributor, is asking \$22.95, jumping to \$29.95 for orders on Thanksgiving Day. The show will be on Galaxy 3, Transponder 2. The COUNTDOWN TO SURVIVOR SERIES special, which will air on USA Nov. 12, will be offered unscrambled on Westar 5, Transponder 22, on Nov. 15 from 8 to 11 p.m. EST.

NO SUPER LOSSES: Don't worry about losing WTBS or WGN from your cable when the new syndicated exclusivity rules go into effect. Those are the new guidelines which force systems to blackout superstations which carry syndicated offerings (ANDY GRIFFITH, BRADY BUNCH, i.e.) your local station carries. Both TBS and WGN say their schedules will be blackout-proof when the rules take hold in January.

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

(U.S./CANADIAN RATES) \$6 for 7 issues, \$19 for 26 issues, \$36 for 1 year.

(OVERSEAS) \$10 for 7 issues, \$36 for 26 issues, \$65 for 1 year.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

MATWATCH

Page 8
Vol. 2, No. 20/Nov. 6-12

MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK

NEW BULLETINS

VIVA LA LUCHA is now out in a quarterly format. The first issue was 24 pages and had many pix and explanations of LUCHA LIBRE. The cost is \$3 per issue and next one is out in December. Write to: KURT BROWN, P.O. BOX 9401, BREA CA 92622.

RING WORMS & ROLLER BABES covers both Rollergames and wrestling weekly. It's \$1 per issue from JIMMY JOE MULLINS JR., P.O. BOX 36189, SAN JOSE CA 95158.

COMBAT SPORTSGRAM is 60 cents per issue from MICHAEL O'HARA, COMBAT SPORTS, BOX 651, GRACIE STATION, NEW YORK NY 10028-0011. It's a results and scoops sheet on ring and roller.

EXISTING BULLETINS

HARVEY COBB has asked us to mention his PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER. Write Harvey for subscription info at 2619 RUFFIN WAY, NORFOLK VA 23504.

You Canadian readers need to get behind Greg Oliver's PRO WRESTLING REPORT. It is a well-done piece of work on the mat scene with a lot of emphasis on our Northern neighbors. Subscription info from GREG at 15 PENROSE AVE., KITCHENER ONT N2A 1E9.

BOOKS

Robert Myers' PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING TRIVIA BOOK is available from BRANDEN PUBLISHING, P.O. BOX 843, BROOKLINE V., BOSTON MA 02147. It's \$9.95 in the U.S. (including shipping), \$10.45 outside the U.S.

TAPE EXCHANGE

DAN CURTIS, 42282 PARKSIDE CIRCLE #206, STERLING HEIGHTS MI 48078, wants to trade for CWF and GA. ALL-STAR shows.

RATINGS RAP

SYNDICATION

	Week Ending Oct. 15			Week Ending Oct. 22		
	Rating	Stations	U.S. Pct.	Rating	Stations	U.S. Pct.
WWF	7.9	249	96%	8.2	237	96%
NWA	5.7	162	91%	6.0	166	92%

CABLE

Week Ending Oct. 30	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/29)	3.4	6.0	1.72 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/30)	2.8	4.2	1.36 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/28)	2.5	5.3	1.26 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/29)	2.5	6.7	1.21 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 9/27)	2.1	3.5	1.06 million
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 9/28)	0.8	7.1	456,000

(ANALYSIS: The syndie numbers reflect about a point lower for the WWF from a year ago and a half-point dip for the NWA, which has gained 20 stations since July but now needs to get the WORLD WIDE show back in Chicago. Also, KNBC has pushed the NWA to a 6 a.m. Sunday time slot, which further hurts the rating in the number two market.

For cable, the Flair magic still pulls as his match vs. Mike Rotunda obviously had a big draw for MAIN EVENT, as well as a HAVOC review and rundown of the CLASH IX card. WCW peaked at 2.8 at 6:30 before dipping opposite the highly-rated FSU-Miami game in the second hour. This was the first weekend of fall that all first-run shows posted a 2-plus rating, which means fall viewing levels are finally on the rise.)

I REMEMBER...

JUNE 1974: BOB ARMSTRONG VS. BUDDY COLT

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - One always knew when a title change was coming at the Jacksonville Coliseum. The one summer night wrestling would move from Thursday to Saturday, the film cameras would come out and you knew you'd leave with at least one new champion.

This warm evening, 1988 MATWATCHER OF THE YEAR Dan Gibson and I journeyed to the Gateway City and part of the lure was a North American title match between Buddy Colt, who'd just taken the belt from Bill Watts, and Bob Armstrong---the 36-year-old who'd risen from Marietta, Ga., fireman to ring general. Interestingly, Buddy had been putting Bob over as a main eventer in Georgia, only losing to Armstrong by DQs.

Something was fishy about this from the start. Buddy began arguing with Bob before the referee's checks had started, then he socked Armstrong in the jaw with a quick punch, followed by an elbow. Colt whipped Armstrong into the far turnbuckle, whereupon Bob promptly climbed to the second buckle, turned, elbowed Buddy in the head and covered him for the pinfall in 22 seconds. We weren't smart enough to know Buddy had signed to return to Georgia.

Later that night, Mr. G and I headed for his beach cottage at Fernandina Beach. We saw a car fly around a corner and turn over in a ditch. Mr. G asked, "I wonder who that is." I answered, "Probably Buddy Colt wondering what happened."

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